

To all Authority staff

At the request of the Minister, I will be resigning as Chair of the Civil Aviation Authority. My term was originally intended to expire in June this year, but he had previously requested that this be extended for a further 12 months.

I have very much enjoyed working with the Authority over the past eight years and can reflect back on the many positive changes that have been achieved. The concerns of the Auditor-General, together with the then unsustainable financial position, are well out of the picture and we can look back on a period of now four years where regulatory outcomes have resulted in comparatively few fatal accidents.

Throughout my tenure as Chair I have appreciated the high level of support from staff. On my arrival many of those then present were quick to respond to the opportunity to contribute to a reshaped organisation. Today, we are twice the size we were then, with a big contributor being the growth within Avsec.

But size is not the main change. Much more evident is the approach taken in engagement. I have been proud of the warm welcome evident within Avsec as the teams there undertake their responsibilities with professional tact and patience — to a level unequalled anywhere.

As a regulator we have steadily shifted our approach from enforcement to assistance and support — often in an environment where some resistance has been met. Much remains yet to be completed and new demands continue to emerge.

It is with sadness that I reflect on the unjustified comments by the media that staff have been subjected to over the past few weeks. Your subsequent positive response has been much appreciated.

Formal staff surveys and more recent feedback describe a culture that is at odds with that portrayed within the media. Issues that may still exist will be further addressed by initiatives recently introduced.

It is expected that the Deputy Chair, Don Huse, will in the interim act as Chair of the Authority.

The future is full of exciting challenges for the aviation community and those participating within it. I look forward to watching from the side-lines as the Authority continues to strongly contribute to aviation success within New Zealand and beyond.

All the best with your ongoing participation and thanks again for your support.

Nigel Gould
21 August 2019